



The North Country Regional Sustainability Plan

					
Waste and Water Management Addressing waste management and water treatment	Transportation Developing a transportation system which promotes the integrity of our towns	Economic Development A integrating theme throughout this project	Energy Reducing energy costs through conservation and clean tech opportunities	Working Landscapes Supporting both farm and forest lands	Liveable Communities Focusing on smart growth and improving communities

LIFE in Action May 9, 2013



An independent not-for-profit organization working to strengthen key sectors of the economy in the Adirondack North Country.

All Projects Serve 3 Big Goals

1. RESILIENT LOCAL ECONOMIES

Provide the foundation for business development that creates family-sustaining jobs in rural communities

2. VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

Foster connections between communities; enable visitors and residents to fully experience the region's abundant cultural and natural assets

3. A STRONG SENSE OF PLACE

Recognize and highlight the exceptional assets that make this region unique and build the case for investment in the region

Cleaner Greener Communities Grant Program

- Announced by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo in his 2011 State of the State address.
- 10 regions statewide. Counties to find common goals and highlight unique features across each region.
- Program empowers the region to create a local plan to support **sustainable communities and create economic development opportunities**.
- Partner with local public and private experts along with community residents.
- **Plan will to guide the implementation of projects that will significantly improve the economic and environmental health of the region.**



Criteria & Focus of the Plan

Criteria

- Regional Economic Development
- Local Job Creation
- Green House Gas Reduction (energy savings)
- Develop related strategies at the local & regional level

Focus

- Distribute benefits across the region
- **Bring together the ideas and projects of residents and support initiatives already underway**

Focus Area Working Groups

- Energy
- Transportation
- Livable Communities & Land Use
- Economic Development
- Materials Management (Waste)
- Water Management
- Working Landscapes (Agriculture, Forests, Recreation)

Each Focus Area included common themes of Economic Development, Governance, Education, and Climate Adaptation



Waste and Water Management
Addressing waste management and water treatment



Transportation
Developing a transportation system which promotes the integrity of our towns



Economic Development
An integrating theme throughout this project



Energy
Reducing energy costs through conservation and clean tech opportunities



Working Landscapes
Supporting both farm and forest lands



Liveable Communities
Focusing on smart growth and improving communities

Common Themes



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – To enhance communities and improve markets, **economic development** must be integrated with environmental stewardship and sustainability initiatives.



EDUCATION – Advancing **environmental and sustainability literacy** will inform and empower North Country citizens to action.



GHG EMISSIONS – The North Country's low **GHG profile** and **high production of renewable energy** presents a picture of self-sustaining and low-cost energy economy.



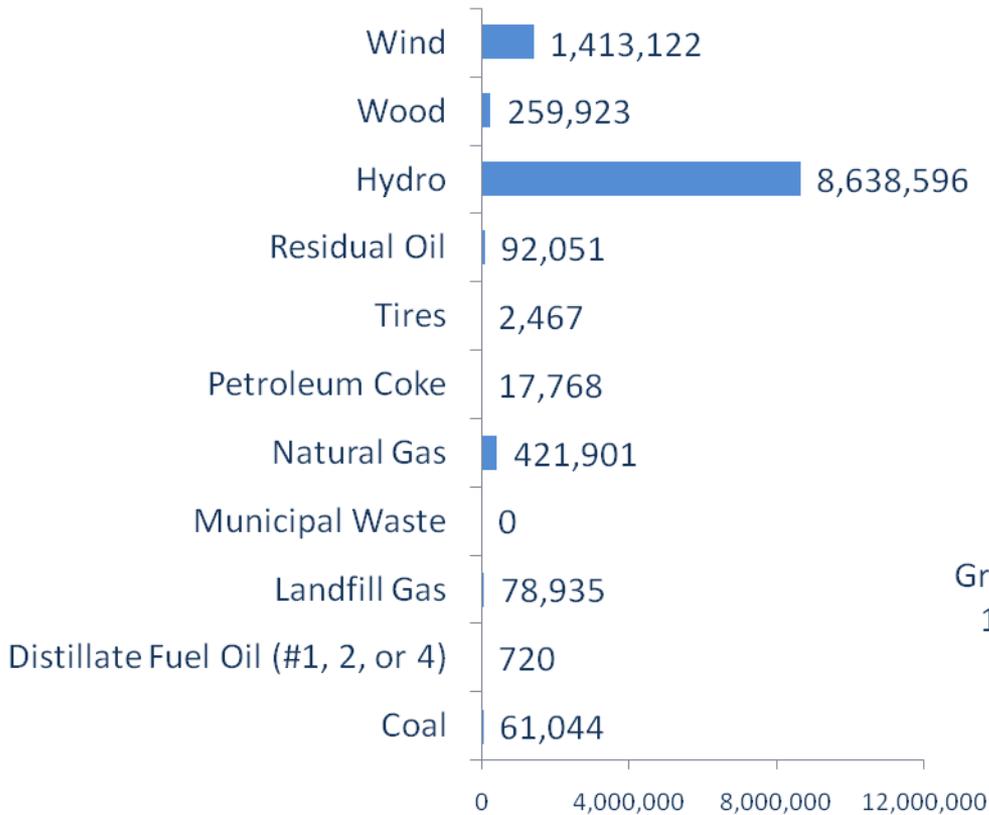
GOVERNANCE – **Collaborating regionally**, across local governments, will support changes in policy and foster sharing of successfully best practices.



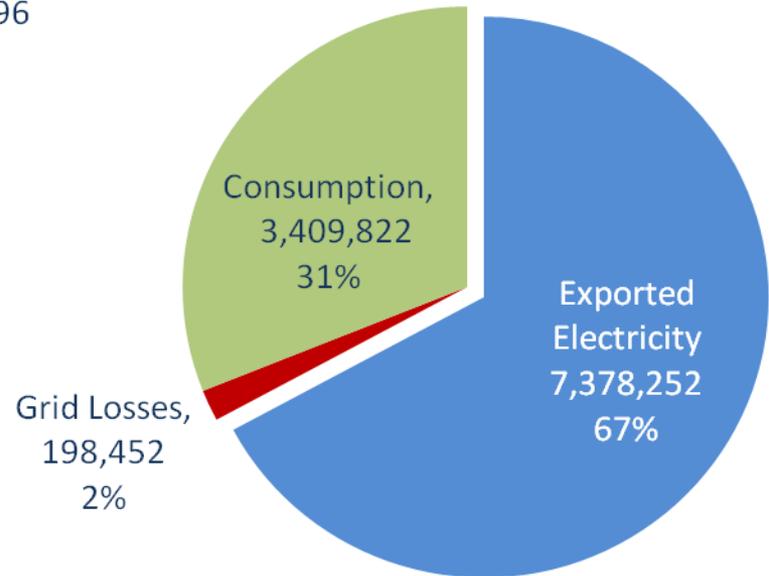
CLIMATE ADAPTATION – Planning for the **protection of infrastructure** and adaptation strategies for **weather-dependent economies** such as agriculture and tourism will improve resiliency of North Country communities.

Grid-Tied Electricity Generation

NET GENERATION (megawatthours)



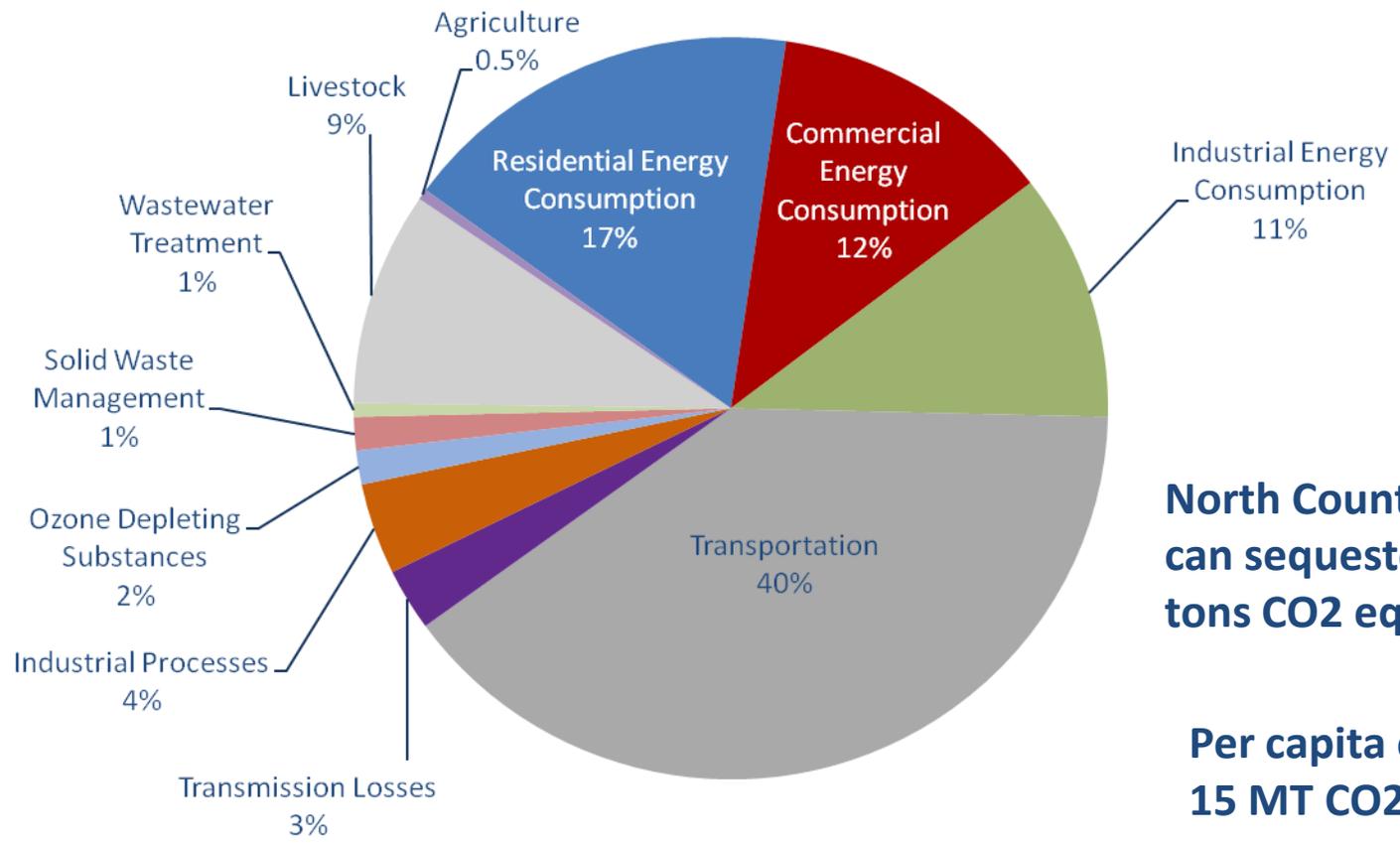
94% of Electricity Generated in the Region is from Renewable Sources



Does not include Photovoltaic, small co-gen and small wind sources

North Country GHG Emissions by Sector

6.7 Million MT CO₂e



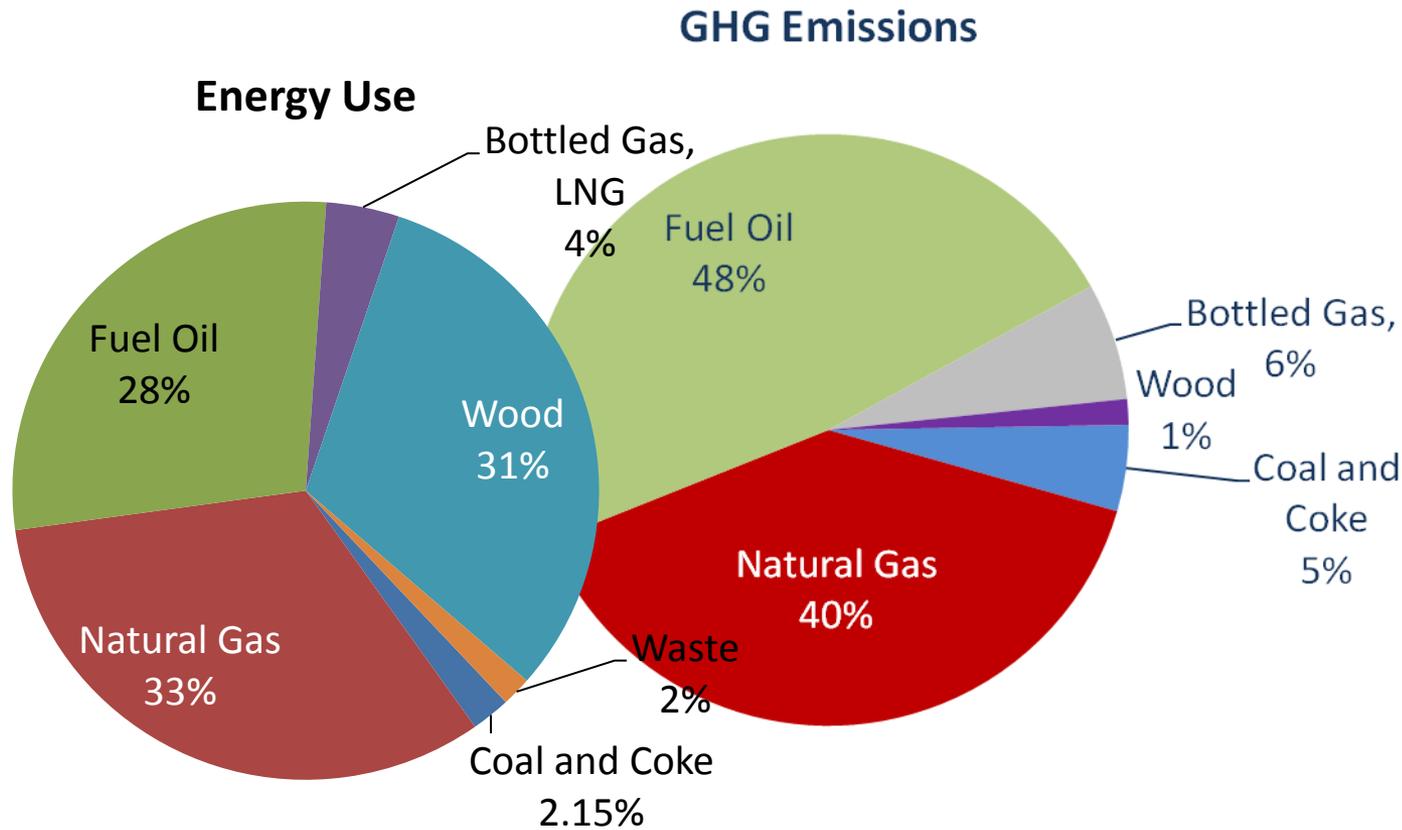
North Country forests can sequester 1.1 trillion tons CO₂ equivalent

Per capita emissions: 15 MT CO₂e/person

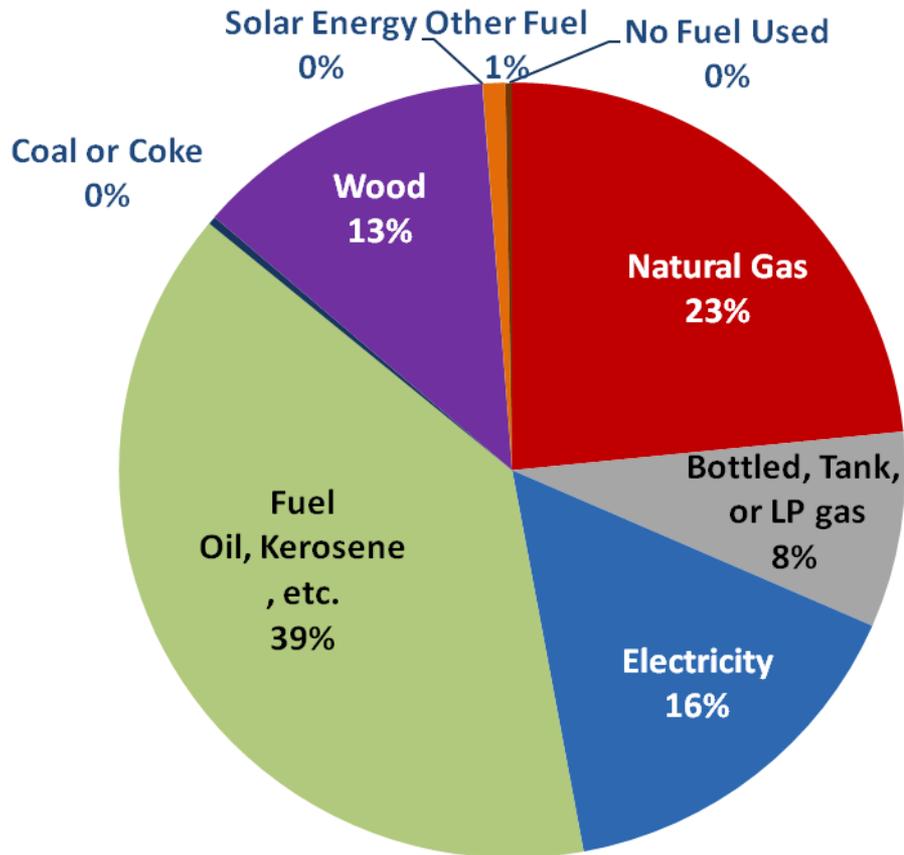
Does not include electricity generation or forest sinks

Energy Use & GHG Emissions by Fuel Type

Does not include Transportation



Percentage of Homes per Fuel Type

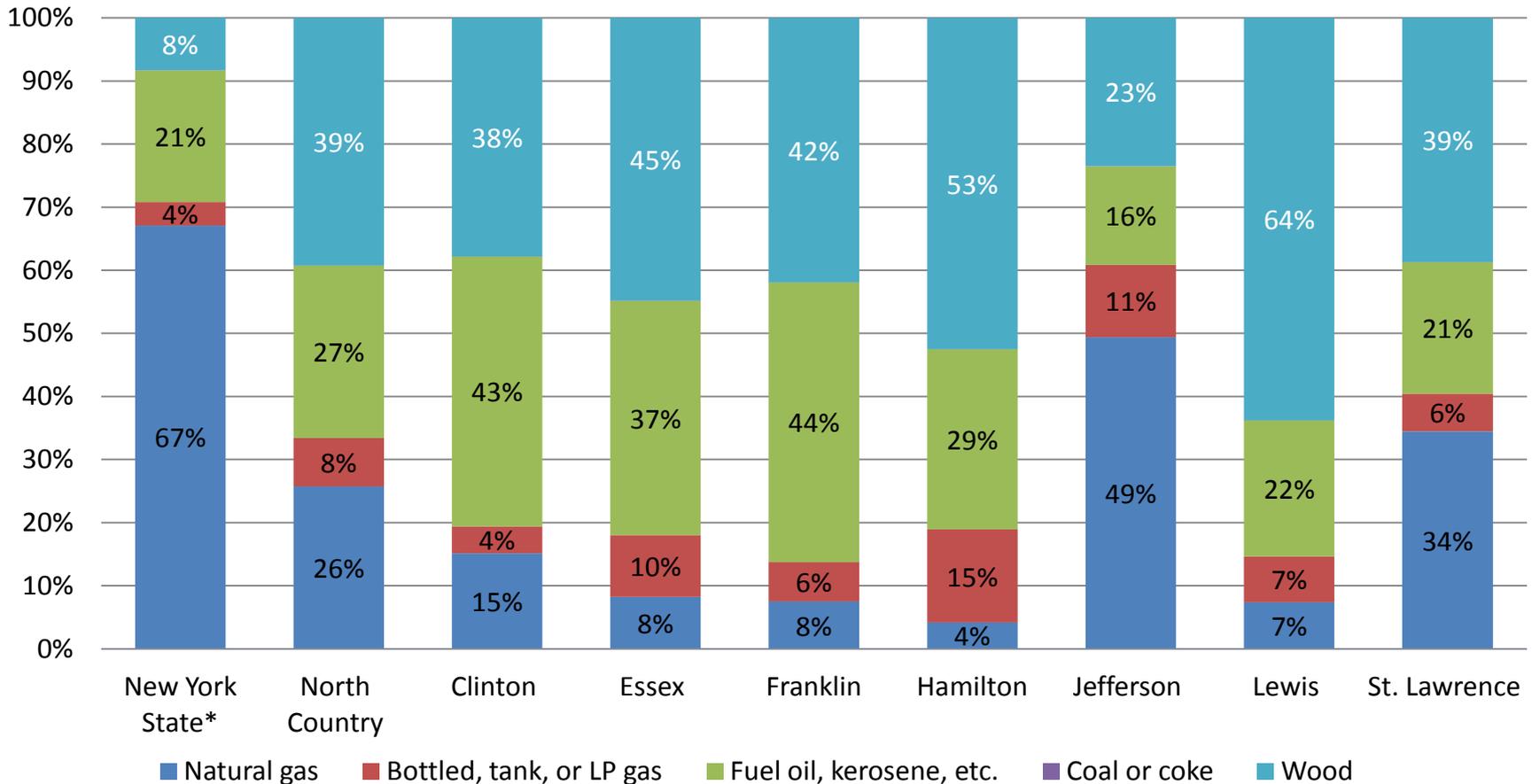


- 13% of homes heat with wood (compared with 2% statewide). But 39% of Residential energy consumption is wood.
- A major contributor to this difference is the inefficiency of older wood heating systems.
- However due to the higher use of wood in the North Country region, the tons of CO₂e per unit of energy is lower.

Includes electricity generation, does not include transportation

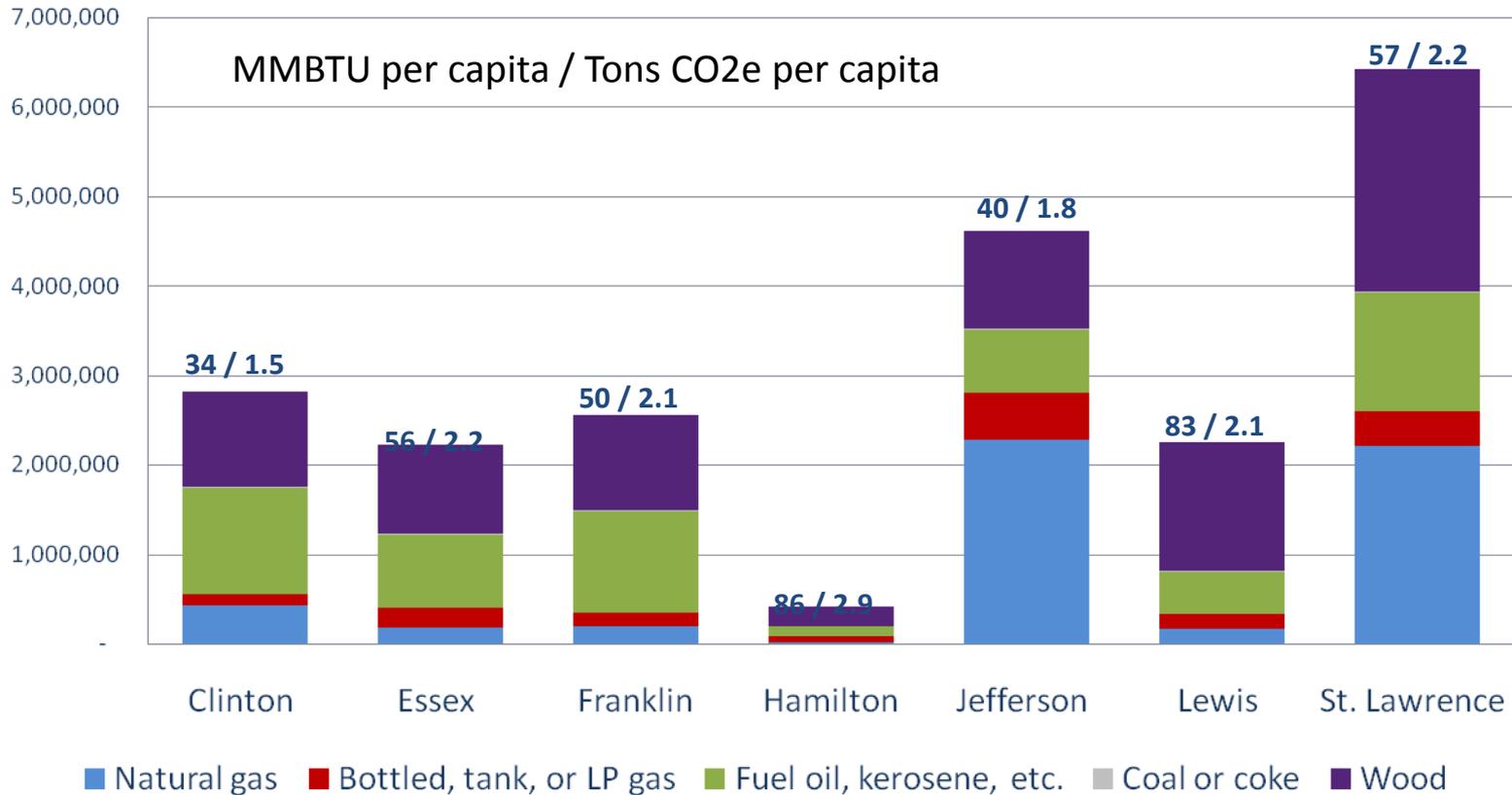
Direct Energy Consumption

Residential Energy Consumption per Fuel Source (% per County)



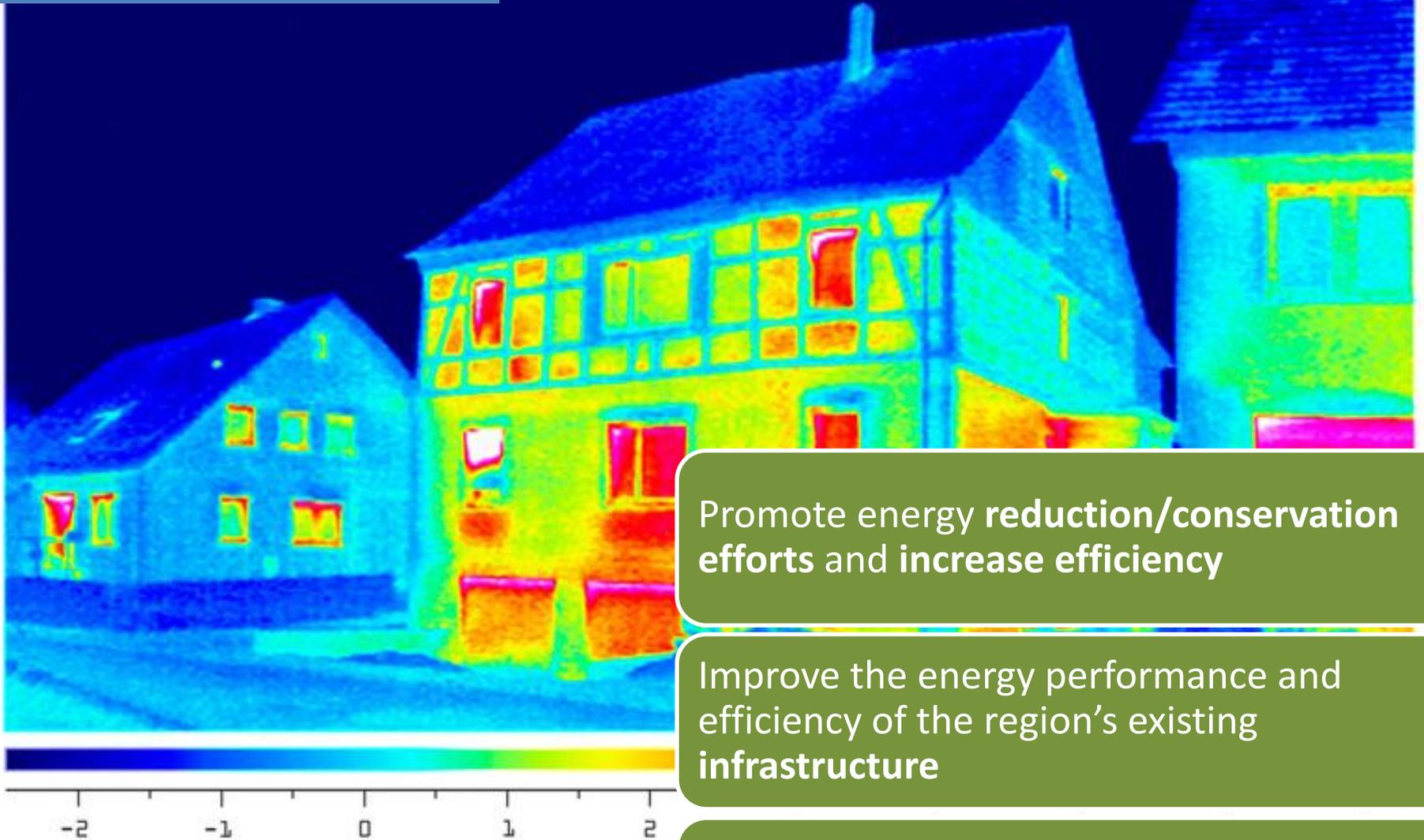
Direct Energy Consumption

Residential Consumption per Fuel Source (MMBtu)



New York State - 31 MMBTU per capita, 1.7 Tons CO2e per capita
North Country - 49 MMBTU per capita, 2.0 Tons CO2e per capita

Energy



Promote energy **reduction/conservation** efforts and **increase efficiency**

Improve the energy performance and efficiency of the region's existing **infrastructure**

Promote the development of **renewable energy technologies**



Energy

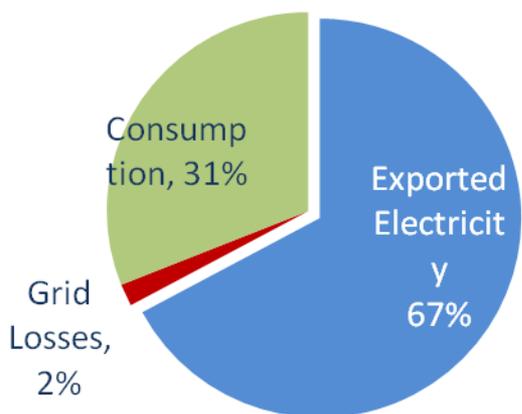
KEY STATS

94% of electricity generation in the region is renewable. 67% is exported.

The Robert Moses Dam alone generates **60%** of the region's hydropower (**6 GWh**).

39% of households use **fuel oil** for heating. **13%** use **wood**.

Transportation makes up **42%** of per capita energy consumption.



Opportunities:

- Retrofit existing buildings for energy efficiency.
- Transitioning heating to renewables.
- Maximize use of the regions existing renewable energy resources.
- Capitalize on regional technology incubators (ex. SUNY Canton and Clarkson).

Implementation strategies:

- Engage residents by using successful case studies to build support for energy efficiency and conservation.
- Connect businesses and residents with existing programs (such as NYSERDA's Green Jobs Green New York).
- Encourage policy planning to support renewables and green building standards for new construction.
- Increase installations of solar and other renewables through community-based virtual net metering.

GOALS



Efficiency



Local generation



Energy use

Livable Communities & Land Use

Revitalize existing main streets & downtown areas

Produce and update **comprehensive plans**

Improve community safety and **adaptability to climate impacts.**

Increase the availability of **fresh foods and produce.**

Support **sustainability programs through local schools.** Increase **sustainability literacy** in the region.





Livable Communities & Land Use

KEY STATS

The North Country encompasses **26%** of New York State's land and just **1.7%** of its population.

2.68% of the North Country's land area is developed.

46% of the population in the region lives in cities, down from **53%** in 2000.

There are **>40** farmers markets in the Region.

Over **HALF** of communities in North Country have an adopted Comprehensive Plan.

34% of communities in the North Country are considered food deserts.

Opportunities

- Preserve old buildings to maintain character of downtowns.
- Improve walkability of downtown centers; create "complete streets".
- Support transportation improvements for main streets
- Use comprehensive plans to ensure future land use is based on the vision and goals for the community.

Implementation Strategies

- Encourage and develop Main Street Redevelopment Programs.
- Enhance local food distribution outlets.
- Update comprehensive plans to include energy efficiency guidelines, renewable technology standards and mixed-use zoning.
- Provide resources for the development of comprehensive and hazard mitigation plans.
- Promote the unique tourism opportunities of the region.



Revitalize
main streets



Access to fresh foods



Sprawl

Climate change and America's poor

- A study from UC, Berkeley has found that low-income communities will suffer the most from the health and economic consequences of rising global temperatures.
 - Higher energy costs
 - Greater health risks
 - Less resilience in recovering from storm loss

How some low-income communities are leading the charge on climate solutions

- Tree-planting to deal with heat islands
- Urban agriculture to deal with food insecurity
- Cross-community collaboration that establishes “green zones”
- Watchdog work on water quality improvement
- Retrofitting of energy-consuming buildings

Discussion & Thank You

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